

Main Street Reisterstown Program

Minutes

Location/Date: Reter's Crabhouse, Reisterstown - September 23, 2013

Attendees: Amy Mantay, Mary Molinaro, Calvin Reter, Irwin Kramer, Pat Brooks, Colleen Brady, Glenn Barnes, Jonathan Schwartz, Paul Davolos, Kathy Gambrell, Dave Powers, Carin Smith, Brad Reter, Daimi Kehinde, Erin Kuhn, Michael Ginsberg, Linda Percy, Danny Carey, George Harman, Susan Ingram, Chris Larkin, Stephanie Boston, Pastor Vivian McCarthy

Amy started the meeting with an update from Daimi about the SHA work to upgrade crossing signals at several intersections in or near our Main Street area. There are 70 intersections in the state of MD and 24 in Baltimore County. The upgrades should happen sometime this fall or next spring and once the work starts in the area it should only take a couple of days. George asked about the light at 140 and Nicodemus which is currently a flashing light. Erin said that intersection is not currently on the list; but, she did see it on Developer's Plans which were submitted to the state. George asked her to keep the area informed if the upgrade is planned. Mary asked about whether there was any chance to add to the list or if it is already defined. There are currently no pedestrian crossing signals at Chartley and Main Street and it is very hard to cross the street. Considering there are bus stops on both sides of the street it would be very helpful to add some there and more clearly define the crosswalks. Irwin asked us to keep focused on Main Street defined from Woodley Drive to Hanover Road.

Erin reported that she has the results of the SHA traffic study and while there will be a formal document sent in a few days, she came to outline some of the items for us.

1) **to improve traffic calming and more defined parking opportunities** she will be willing to stripe a line to designate one driving lane each way with a shoulder on the other side of the white line for parking or biking through town. Calvin asked her to confirm whether there would be the possibility of someone getting a ticket if they cross the line into the shoulder area to go around a left turning car. She said that is against the law and there is the possibility of a ticket.

2) **add left turn bays at Glyndon Rd/Main Street intersection both directions on Main Street.** There were no comments and it seemed everyone agreed this would be a welcome addition to that intersection.

3) **to improve pedestrian walkability** more pedestrian crossings is a possibility -- she wants to do both the Cockeys Mill Road and Chatsworth Road intersections because they are "school crossings" this fall. They will have striped crosswalks. She is willing to add a couple more faux brick crosswalks with signs along Main Street. There was a discussion of having a sign in the middle alerting drivers about pedestrians like you can see at the NCR & Papermill Rd. in Cockeysville. Erin said the state no longer puts those signs due to the continued problems of drivers running into them damaging or destroying them. They are sometimes seen near schools. However, the school is responsible to put them out during the drop off and pick up times and remove them at other times.

4) a consultant looked towards making **Main Street one lane both ways as soon as you cross Chartley Drive.** The right lane below the light coming into Main Street would be designated a right turn only lane onto Chartley -- once you go straight through the light the right lane would be striped as a shoulder and for use only by the bus for the bus stop there. The goal here would be slow the traffic going into Main Street starting at Chartley. Jonathan asked about the Berryman's Lane intersection at Main Street. Rush hour times it is almost impossible to take a left turn there onto Main Street causing a long waiting line of cars. Although the suggestion was for a roundabout, Erin said the state is not looking at any roundabouts for our area.

Pat asked how the traffic study was performed and Erin said it was manually done between 6:00am – 7:00pm with the traffic count and the 13 hours were broken into 15 minute increments. It was done on a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday while school was in session.

Irwin thanked Erin for her hard work and providing the traffic study. He loves the proposals she has outlined. He asked her if we got a consensus, what is the timetable? Any project larger than the four she outlined would require a lot more time and effort and waiting until capital money was available. The four projects she described, she believes she can get handled this fall and/or spring with state money that is currently available. She would like the request as soon as possible because once the weather turns cold it will have to wait until spring due to a couple ideas being temperature sensitive. The signal upgrade depending how involved it would be would not happen this fall but is a real possibility for next spring. Pat asked about refreshing the crosswalks at the end of streets that access Main Street as some are not very visible. She was speaking particularly about Woodley Avenue and Village Center Drive. Erin said that while they are county roads, the state normally does complete the striping at the end of roads as they access a state road and will look into those areas.

Irwin talked about the more capital improvement of a “southern gateway” and he wants to be consistent with their current recommendations above Chartley to Woodley. Erin said she may have some thoughts and will look for something that helps with traffic calming. She wants to be sure it is placed so people aren’t surprised when they drive up to it and potentially cause an accident.

Amy handed out a flier that summarized the discussions of the morning and open questions we have had in the past some of which have been handled so far.

Maintenance (Baltimore County)

Assessment of the sidewalks along Main Street, conducted by Dept. of Planning staff in July, 2013. Submitted to Baltimore County Property Management for review on July 30, 2013.

SHA’s original streetscape was evaluated for the following (which per an MOU, the County is supposed to maintain/repair):

- Brick damage
- Brick movement
- Sunken brick
- Missing brick
- Overgrown
- Weeds

Amy said she has a clear inventory of the issues and hopes to hear from maintenance soon

Pedestrian/Safety Improvements (SHA could possibly fund on their own base on safety issues; if not, then need to seek funding for this from SHA)

The Reisterstown Main Street Committee requested in March 2013 that SHA evaluate Main Street for possible safety improvements that could be made within the agency’s budget. That evaluation was to look at:

- Traffic calming
- Striping for existing on-street parking (helping calm traffic)
- Addition of new pedestrian crossings
- Making existing pedestrian crossings more visible

These are the topics reviewed by Erin in her above report.

Traffic Calming/Beautification

Enhanced gateways at northern end and southern end of Main Street, both to visually signify entrance to historic corridor but also to calm traffic entering the area and allow for improved pedestrian access at these points.

Re-design or re-alignment of central node on Main Street at Cockeys Mill Road to include beautification, traffic calming, improved pedestrian access (especially given proximity to Franklin Middle School), as well as address vehicular concerns such as speeding, the configuration of the road and visibility of intersection, which is also the main crosswalk to the school.

Secretary Smith asked the county for lists and are very interested in Reisterstown and their projects.

NOTE:

The Reisterstown Main Street committee does wish to pursue using the Transportation Alternatives program to fund some or all of these projects. SHA discussed this option with the committee back in March 2013.

Amy asked for the committee reports:

Mary said that the **organization committee** is still working on the budget figures. She thanked everyone who has helped with booths in the past and congratulated the Main Street Music committee for having such a successful series. Everyone is already talking about how we need to do it next year. Then she passed around a signup sheet for the October 12th Corn Roast asking for volunteers to help promote Main Street at the booth from 1pm – 6pm.

Paul said the **economic restructuring committee** is focusing on two priorities. 1) add the property owners' email address to our spreadsheet of property owners as that will be the most effective means of communication and 2) use postcards as mailers in the meantime. He expects to send that mailing in October.

Amy said that the **promotion committee** is working on trick or treating for Sat., Oct. 26th from 2pm-4pm. Children will gather and start with a costume contest at RUMC around 1-1:30pm. Businesses that agree to participate will have a sign in their window. Terri will be doing two "Turnpikes and Taverns" historic walks along Main Street at 10am and 11am. The Living History Group will be participating with Ghost Tours at the Reisterstown Community Cemetery that evening. The committee is still working on some teenage activities for the evening.

Irwin said that the **design committee** will be meeting next Monday 10am at Reters. At the last RIA meeting Delegate Jones suggested she needs a quick turnaround for our town Wish List so she can look to fund it at the state level with some discretionary funds.

Dan said **clean, safe, and green committee** next activity will be Saturday, October 5th and meet in front of Reters to start cleaning Main Street. Pat asked for more adults to volunteer since Chartley is having their Clean Up Day that morning and several regular helpers may not be available. Kathy said that she was speaking with Darlene Gilberto from Franklin High School last week who manages the students who need service hours. Kathy announced that Darlene is arranging for students to pick up the bus stop area by the high school twice a week which was great news.

Calvin asked that the email addresses for the weekly update be put in the bcc section because it takes a page and a half before the text of the update actually starts. Amy said she would work that out and also checked that the minutes are up on the website as quickly as possible.

Fall events

Clean-ups –October 5th 9am – 11am.

Farmers Market –Sundays, June 2nd to October 6th 10am-2pm
358-360 Main Street

Calendar of Events/Promotions

Needed October events by September 15

Facebook/website (on-going)

Over 488 friends view our Facebook posts! Double the number we had in May

The next meeting will be held at Reter's Crabhouse, Monday, October 7 , 2013 at 10am.